

August 22, 2013

# Weekly Views

More than 500 Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) staff members, representing 24 teams, participated in the 2013 FedEx Plane Pull Challenge at the former Indianapolis International Airport. All together, the teams raised over \$45,000 for Special Olympics Indiana! While every IDOC team put forth a valiant effort to pull the 164,000 pound FedEx Boeing 757 across the tarmac, Putnamville Correctional Facility's team, The Dark Knight Rises II (pictured below), had the fastest overall time for the second year in a row, pulling the plane 12 feet in just 5.116 seconds. Thank you to all IDOC staff, friends, and family for coming out to support this event and raise money for such a great cause!



IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and State Personnel Chief of Staff Denny Darrow awarded Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility Safety Manager Ben Zuckschwerdt an iPad for his enrollment in the Castlight Health program. The Castlight Health program allows individuals to make more informed decisions about health care. Mr. Zuckschwerdt decided to register for Castlight to more effectively keep his family's health care costs in check. He stated that he has already saved money on prescriptions for his family.



The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COLCF) Choir has been very busy. The group entertained the Central Noble Food Pantry Volunteers at the pantry's annual volunteer carry-in picnic held on August 10. COLCF has a close working relationship with the pantry making weekly donations of fresh produce throughout the spring, summer and fall months. The Choir also preformed for the Green Center United Methodist Church during their Sunday service. The choir will finish out the month of August by performing for another local church. (photo left)

Five offenders from New Castle Correctional Facility's (NCCF) L Dorm, along with Case Manager Huber, assisted Second Harvest Food Bank with the distribution of food to 702 families. NCCF was also able to donate 150 pounds of fruits and vegetables grown by the horticulture class and minimum housing to the cause.

Work crews from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) were instrumental in the cleanup effort at the Indiana State Fair. IREF crews, which numbered between 20-50 men, helped set up and tear down displays, and rebuild other booths for featured exhibits each day, including animal stalls, farming sites, and other attractions. Impressed with the crews' work ethic and efficiency, State Fair officials expanded their partnership with IREF and enlisted the work crews to do the final cleanup after the fair ended. The workers picked up tons of trash, cleared thousands of pounds of hay feed, and broke down animal stalls and attractions from more than 1,000,000 square feet of space, saving the state hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Indiana State Fairgrounds has expressed interest in using IREF residents as a source of labor and sanitation efforts in future featured events, which may include concerts or major sporting events.

Mark Spratt, PEN Products Controller, competed in the 17.5 mile Ederle Swim from Manhattan, NY to Sandy Hook, NJ, finishing 3rd! Way to go, Mark! What an accomplishment! (photo right)



The Indiana State Prison, with the assistance of the Michigan City Police Department, held an annual drill simulating a disturbance at the facility's Minimum Security Unit. The Emergency Response Teams were activated, and eight staff members played the parts of offenders making demands on staff. During the exercise, offenders were treated for mock injuries that included a heart attack, broken bones and stab wounds. Superintendent William Wilson expressed his appreciation to Chief Swistek and the Michigan City Police Department for their assistance with the drill.

24-hour WFIU Radio, broadcasting from the Indiana University campus, focused on Vocational Education and the PLUS program during a visit to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). Reporter Jimmy Jenkins and intern Rachel Morello, working on a sentencing reform story, took a firsthand look at Building Trades and PLUS unit at WVCF. They talked to staff and offenders about how the programs prepare participants to find meaningful employment and become community minded both during incarceration and after release.

A ceremony was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility Outside Dorm (OSD) to recognize graduates of the OSD's Inside Out Dad Program. A reception was held following the program to allow staff and family members of the offenders an opportunity to express their congratulations and celebrate this accomplishment. (photo left)

IDOC staff and offenders donated over \$9800 to Prevent Child Abuse America. The money was collected through offender programs, staff luncheons, and other fundraising contests. Prevent

Child Abuse America works to ensure the healthy development of children nationwide, free from abuse and neglect. (Photo right, students at Camp Summit participate in a golf pitching contest)

Miami Correctional Facility hosted its 10th annual picnic event with Gospel Echoes Teams. The team fed 3,600 offenders and staff hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, potato chips, Whoopie pies and lemonade during the 12-hour event. This year's estimated costs were \$10,000 to feed the facility. They utilize about 150 volunteers who cook, serve and pray with the offenders. The group also provided Gospel music while staff and offenders ate on the lawn.

